

## REMARKS

Claims 1-51 remain in the application. No claims have been canceled.

Claims 1, 18,19, 25, 26, 28, 30, 34, 35, and 44 have been amended. No claims have been added.

### Specification corrections

The Office Action states that the application does not conform with 37 CFR 1.77(b) because the title of the specification should be in uppercase and because the section headings should not be underlined. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification has been amended per the Examiner's suggestions and now conforms to 37 CFR 1.77(b).

### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action states that claims 18-19, 25-26, and 28-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification has been amended per the Examiner's suggestions and conforms to 35 U.S.C. §112. It should be noted that claim 30 rather than claim 31 (See Office Action, pg. 3, Section 6) recited the limitation "a maximum allowed deadlocks," and has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestions to add the words "number of". In addition, it should be noted that Claim 31 did not recite the limitation "represents a number of deadlocks occurred" (See Office Action, pg. 4, Section 8) and therefore has not been amended to add the pronoun "that" as suggested by the Examiner.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-17, 20-24, 27, 35-51. The Examiner states that claims 18-19, 25-26, 28 and 29-34 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18-19, 25-26, 28, 30, and 34 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 29 and 31-33 are allowable at least for the reason that they depend on an allowable independent claim. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow all of the Applicant's claims.

#### Invitation for a telephone interview

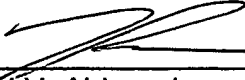
The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 408-720-8300 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested. If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 9/8/04

  
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